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## **Senate approves Cassis anti-hazing bills**

**LANSING** – The Michigan Senate today unanimously approved legislation to ban hazing at Michigan’s schools and universities, announced Sen. Nancy Cassis, R-Novi, a package sponsor.

“These bills send a strong message that we will not tolerate hazing in our society,” Cassis said. “I am appalled at what some students must endure to win the right to be part of a group.”

Members of the Senate heard dramatic testimony last week from Garet Drogosch, a Northville middle school student who spent months in a wheelchair following the football team’s traditional ‘Eighth Grade Hit Day.’ Because Michigan law does not currently address hazing, this event was not a crime.

The bills call for a one-year, \$2,500 misdemeanor against those who hurt another through hazing and a 15-year, \$10,000 felony against those who kill another through hazing. Hazing victims would not be punished, even if they willingly participated in the hazing. In addition, the legislation removes student consent as a defense in hazing cases.

Senate Bills 783 and 784 now go to the House. If the bills are signed into law, Michigan will no longer be one of seven states without anti-hazing laws.

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